

AFFIDAVIT OF CLARENCE AARON

I, CLARENCE AARON, hereby state as follows:

1. My name is Clarence Aaron. I was 23 years old when I was involved in a drug deal that led to my incarceration. I am now 38 years of age, and am currently housed at the United States Penitentiary in Coleman, Florida. I respectfully submit this affidavit in support of my petition that the President commute my sentence of life imprisonment.

2. In prison, I have had the time to reflect upon - and come to deeply regret - the wrongdoing that led to my conviction and incarceration. I now realize that my actions were very selfish, and completely ignored my obligations to the law, my family, and my community. At the time I was involved in the drug conspiracy, I did not think through the consequences of my actions, how I was helping destroy the same community that I loved and had worked so hard to improve. For the shame, humiliation and damage I bestowed upon my family, friends and community I feel terrible remorse.

3. I fully acknowledge my responsibility for the role I played in the criminal acts that transpired back in 1992, when my cousin (James) and friend (Robert) asked for my help with the drug deal. I had never before been involved in any criminal conduct. I did not stop to consider my actions or ask myself what the potential consequences of my behavior might be - questions such as: (1) will someone be hurt by my actions? (2) how will my behavior affect my future and family and my community? I didn't consider any of these questions - I just acted. As I look back, I realize what a bad choice I made. I exercised poor judgment because I did not respect the values of good citizenship that I had learned as a boy, values I had tried to live by up until I became involved in the drug conspiracy. I was raised to uphold a high moral standard,

and by the decision I made I fell far short of that standard. To this day, I deeply regret the weakness that led me to get involve in a drug deal.

4. I can't change what happened, however much I wish I could re-think the decision I made back then. All I can tell you, through my actions and my faith, is that I have matured and changed. I look at life much differently now. From the day I entered the prison door, I made a promise to myself that I would meet the trials of life head on, and I have become a stronger person behind these walls. I have reflected long and hard on the mistake I made. I have tried to take full advantage of self-improvement programs and have furthered my education. I have worked hard at my prison jobs and have been recognized for that. I have tried to maintain a spotless disciplinary record. My Unit Team has classified me as a model prisoner. To say I'm proud of that would be a understatement - not many inmates have that title. I am not the same person I was in 1992, and I am confident that I have the strength and understanding to make wise choices in my life.

5. I believe that the person I have become shows that I can be a productive citizen and make a positive impact on society. I have asked God for his forgiveness, and I have had to forgive myself. Now I must work for forgiveness of my family, my friends, and the community that I harmed.

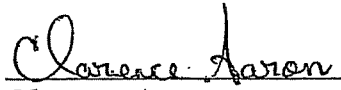
6. Through my walk with Christ, I realize that I have not lived up to my potential. The word of God says, We were born by his purpose and for his purpose. My biggest question for a long time was, what's God's purpose for my life. After reading books like Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren, and Awaken the Giant Within, by Anthony Robbins, I have seen how short of God's purpose I have fallen, and believe I have found a purpose. I want to work with wayward boys from the ages of 16 to 26 years old. I think that those years are the most

impressionable years in a young man's life. With my life experiences and my testimony, I believe I can be a light at the end of the tunnel for a wayward youth or young adult who has somewhat lost his way. I believe I can help them make the right choices, as I failed to do those many years ago, and my story can give them the strength to avoid the weakness to which I fell prey. As the old saying goes: "Each one teach One!" We all have learned much of what we know about being a man from role models we have in others. I believe that I can make an important contribution to my community through this work and that I can restore some of the damage done by my actions years ago. Knowing my purpose in God has helped me sustain my hope for a future. Paul said it best, My life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus - the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love.

7. I also want to give back to my family. I have stayed connected with them. Although my mother's situation does not allow her to visit me often, I try to talk with her every week that I can, and I have tried to give her support in her troubles. I also talk with my sisters and their kids. When my baby sister (Stephaine) passed away unexpectedly in September of 2005, I felt so guilty for not being there for her and my family. On that day, I lost a part of my soul. I often think about our time together and our love for each other. I think about a sister that I wasn't there for. I think about my two nieces that miss their mother. She has left a great responsibility for us to take care of. She has left behind two angels for us to remember her by. I talk with the girls as much as I can, but I sometimes hate to call home because I know they are going to ask me when I am coming home. Meagan, the baby of the house, often writes me and says she wants to see me, or asks when am I coming home. It hurts me to my soul knowing that one selfish choice I made has taken me from my family. I want so much to be there for them.

8. Every day I wake-up I have to deal with my reality. Those years ago, I made a horribly selfish, foolish and wrong decision that am truly sorry for. I so regret all the hurt and damage I have caused others through my transgression. One of my life goals is to be the best person I can be. I want to be the best son, uncle, friend and citizen I can be. As I sit here now and reflect on my current plight, I feel the growth, maturity and strength that my experience in prison has, in God's loving hands, brought about in me. I just pray for a second chance to be a productive citizen.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on November 15, 2007.


Clarence Aaron